

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1806**

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

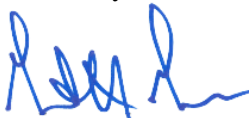
Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service Sugar Cane Research Unit at the Ardoyne Farm Site in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service, located at 501 Bull Run Rd. Schriever, LA, 70395. The funding will complete the consolidation of the USDA/ARS-SRU program and personnel into a single location by finishing the final phase of construction of an already planned and designed laboratory and office building, as well as two greenhouses.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 7 U.S.C. §2250a, which permits appropriations to be expended “for the erection of buildings and other structures on land owned by States, counties [or] municipalities.” The sugar industry is a vital component of the Louisiana economy that provides an annual economic impact of over \$3 billion and directly supports 17,000 agricultural jobs. The increased efficiency of the ARS-SRU project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because the research solutions it facilitates will ensure the long-term viability of the sugar industry by helping to expand crop range and combat constantly evolving pest complexes.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Garret Graves  
Member of Congress